

From: Groehn-Kick, Andrea [AGroehnKick@oas.org]
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2007 2:05 PM
To: Darton, Terry
Subject: Close Mirant Power Plant
Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Dear Mrs Darton:

We moved from Europe to Alexandria the US three years ago with our then one-year old daughter Yasmin. Whilst in Brussels, and although we lived in a very busy city, she did not have breathing issues. Unfortunately, when we first moved to Virginia, we lived on Chetworth Court, only a short walk away from the Mirant Power Plant. Soon after our move she began developing breathing issues, wheezing and shortness of breath. We looked into allergies, ripped out the carpets in the house, cleaned the air-ducts and did everything responsible parents do to improve the health of their children. The one thing I could not do for my daughter but which I wish I could, would be to turn off the Mirant Power plant!! In the mornings, as we would sit on our porch and talk about our plans for the day, I would see the plumes of smokes wafting our way and I would bundle her up and take her inside as quickly as I could!

It soon became clear that the fumes from the power plant were an “aggravating risk factor” as her pediatrician called it and that the only solution was to move away. So we did! We now live in Del Ray, and albeit the air is better, depending on which way the wind blows, we can still smell the fumes and I will keep her indoors, with all windows closed! Perhaps we should move even farther away, but our friends, jobs and schools are here and I strongly believe that clean air is a right, not a priviledge!

Unfortunately I am unable to turn off the plant, but you can. I ask that on behalf of all children, adults and elderly suffering from breathing problems, I ask you to take action.

Thank you and kind regards,

Andrea Groehn-Kick
Office of the Assistant Secretary General
Organization of American States
Washington D.C.